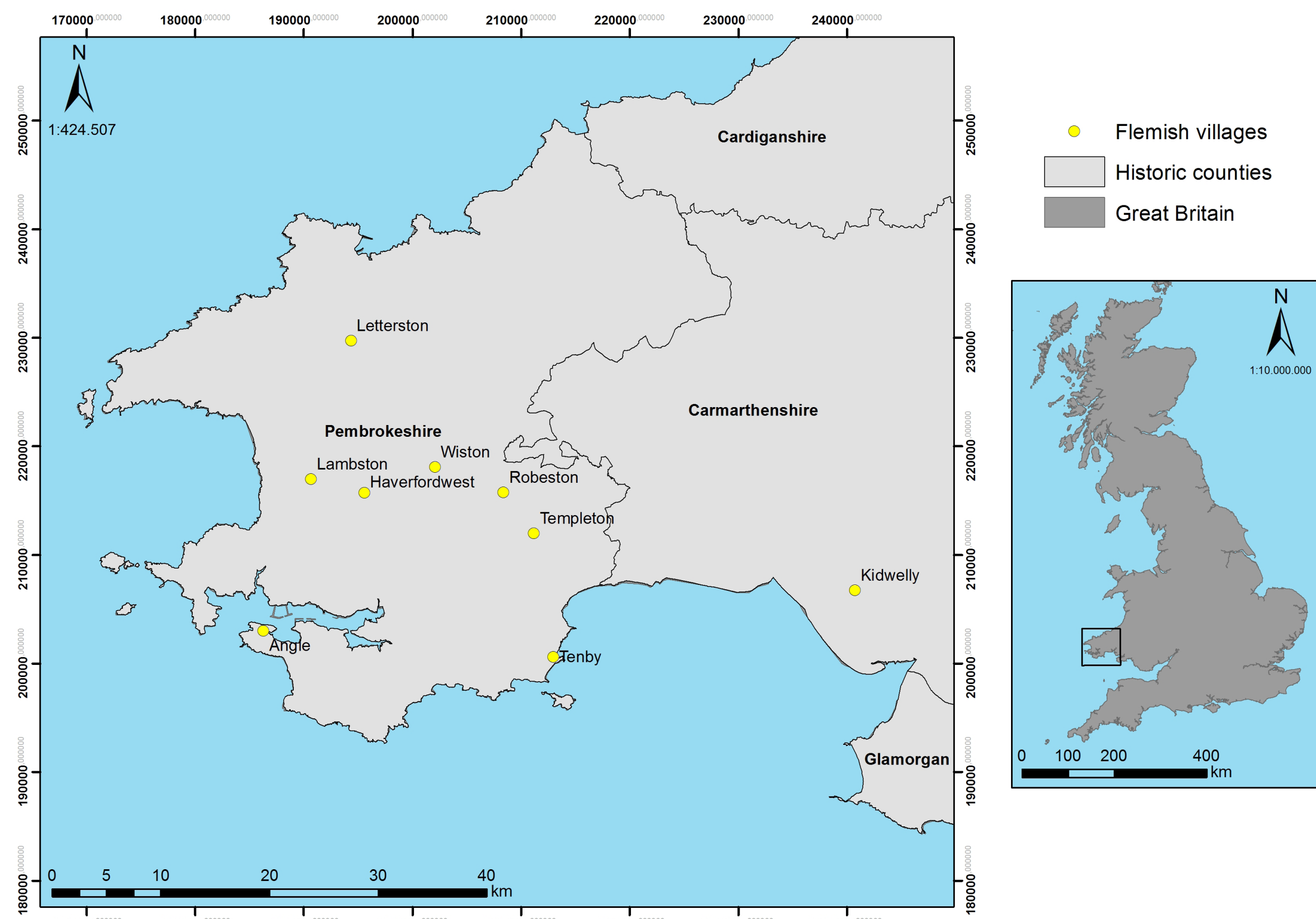


LITTLE FLANDERS BEYOND WALES

A landscape archaeological research on Flemish settlement landscapes in the British Isles.
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BACKGROUND

Little is known about the **Flemings** who, following the Norman-Conquest, settled in the British Isles. One of the few documented communities was in **Pembrokeshire**, South Wales. Shortly after establishing the colony between **1107** and **1111**, elite Flemish immigrants came directly from Flanders to plant new **settlements** with striking morphological and geographical **similarities** to those in their homeland. One of them was **Wizo** Flandrensis, who built upon his arrival around 1112 a castle in the village of **Wiston**. The names of contemporary settlers are preserved in settlement place names of which Roberton (Robert), Lamington (Lambin) and Thankerton (Tancred) are just a few examples. However, nothing is known about the **impact** these Flemings had on the **British landscape** and **settlements** at the time. Nor is it clear which **social** and **cultural** processes were involved in the ab nihilo plantation of these settlements.



AIM OF THE PROJECT

This project aims to verify the hypothesis that there has been a **translocation** of the Flemish planted rural settlement system to the British Isles following direct **immigration** from **Flanders**. Socio-economic opportunism, ecological stress and demographic pressure following a wave of extension on **marginal grounds** along the margins of exploited lands in Flanders, caused this **transfer of skills** to areas equally hostile, both geographically and politically. Essentially, similar patterns of **settlement morphology**, **site location** and **field systems** can be discerned, therefore suggesting **transregional** patterns of marginal **land management**. Furthermore, this project wants to unravel the **social and cultural processes** of these Flemish migrations, clarifying whether the planting of settlements by Flemings was a top down or bottom up process between social elites and common peoples, and whether it was an indication of cultural intrusion or assimilation/acculturation.

METHODOLOGY: CROSS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, INTEGRATING MULTI-PROXY DATA IN GIS

HISTORY

- Literature on Flemish migration
- Primary sources
- Cartography
- Place names
- Measuring units

LANDSCAPE

- Characterisation and typological classification of planted rural settlements in Flanders in order to create a reference model
- HLC Welsh settlements
- Aerial photography: orthogonal, oblique and historical
- LiDAR

ARCHAEOLOGY

- Augering
- Non-invasive geophysical prospection
- Existing archaeological data

Integration in GIS

CASE STUDIES

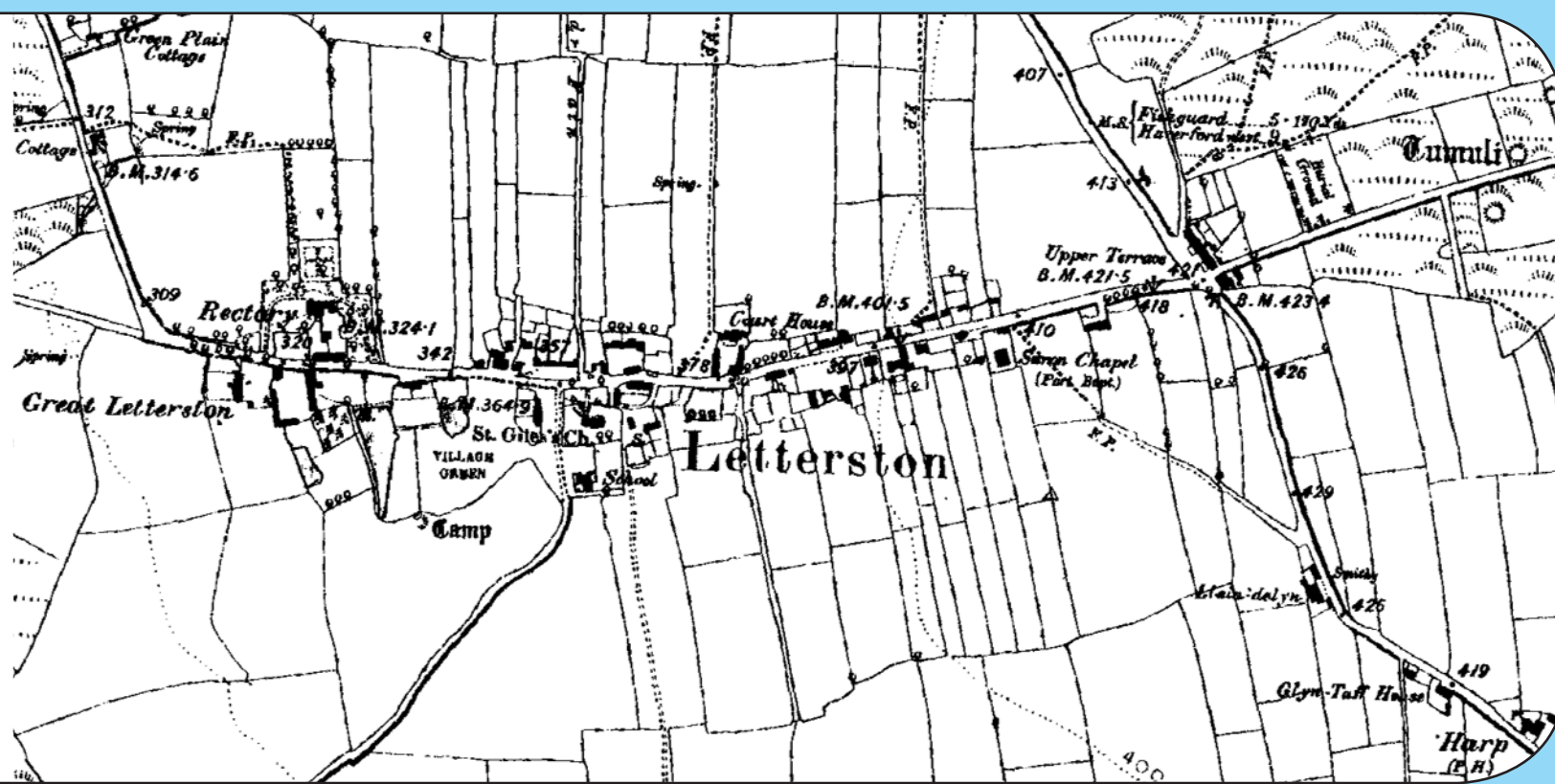
Case studies Flanders

- Doornzele (e.g.)
- Woesten
- Kluizen



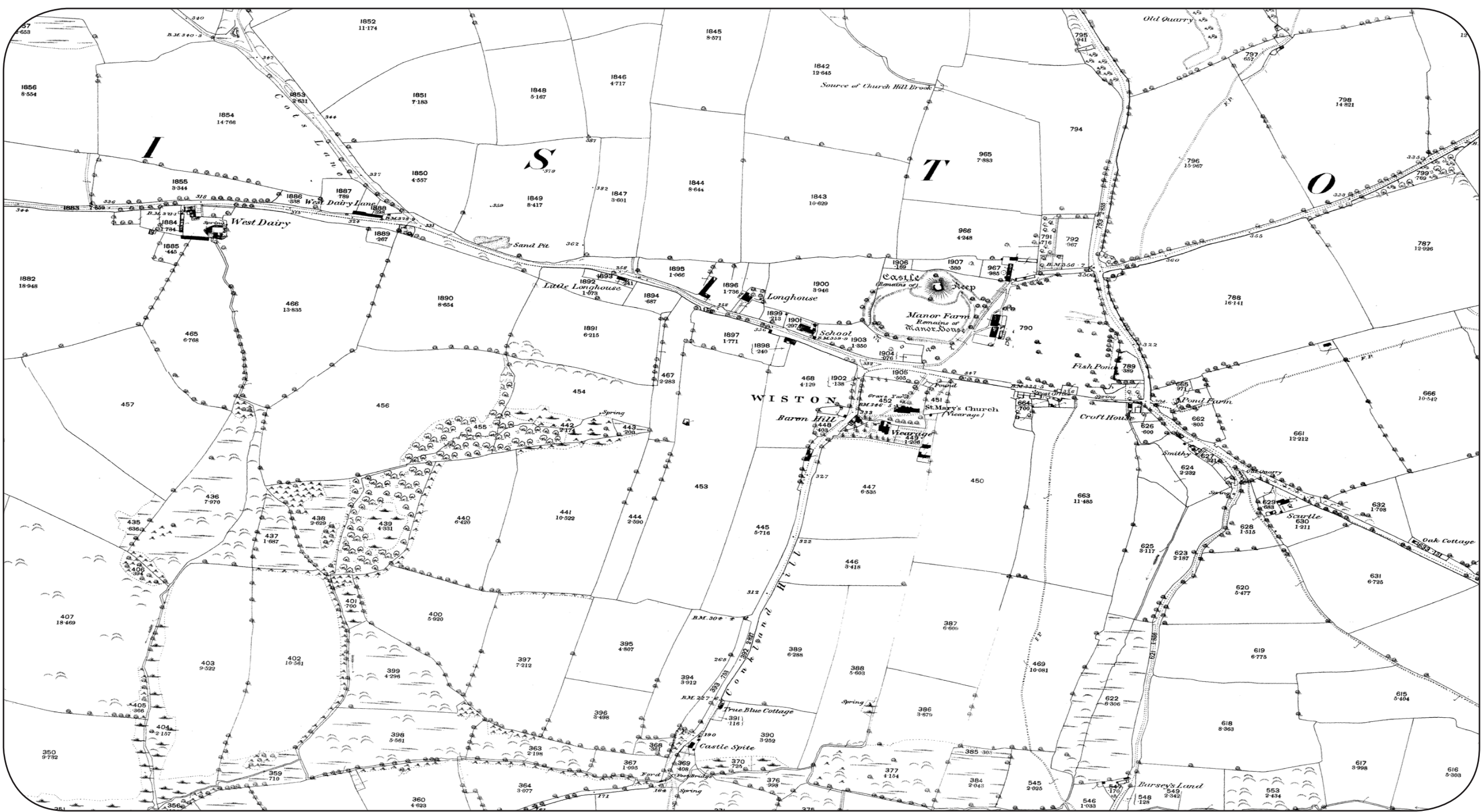
Test cases Wales

- Angle
- Templeton
- Letterston (e.g.)



Case studies Wales

Wiston (Pembrokeshire)



Whitson (Monmouthshire)



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